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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 7, 1975

Dear Friends,

The Santa Barbara County Commission on the Status of Women wants to share with you the results of our recent workshop on the concerns of women, held October 5, 1974.

There have been some exciting results of the workshop, already. A women's council is being organized and the group is exploring an effective means of disseminating information about programs, legislation, educational opportunities and news of concern to women.

The first women's center in Santa Barbara is being organized. It is to be at 1421 State Street, upstairs. A library and an answering service are early projects. It has been suggested that neighborhood women's centers are needed to serve women where they live.

Preliminary work has been done with the Santa Barbara County Welfare Department to secure emergency refuge for women and children in private homes. If the Board of Supervisors approves the program, a retainer fee can be paid to those willing to open their homes on short notice to shelter a woman who is under duress. Those who are threatened with physical abuse or are under emotional stress would be among the beneficiaries of such a program.

We urge your help in lobbying the supervisors for their support of meaningful programs for women! The enclosed report lists several very important areas of consensus for action.

As a reminder that we must use good organizational methods, we are enclosing eight rules for effective action from John Gardner of Common Cause.

If you wish more information about the Commission on the Status of Women or wish to be on our permanent mailing list, please reply on the enclosed form.

In order to receive current information on women's activities and legislation at the state level, we urge you to write the California Commission on the Status of Women, to receive their newsletter, at 926 J Street, Room 1003, Sacramento, California 95814.

Individuals and representatives of organizations are urged to participate in the Women's Concerns Council. The organizational meeting will be at the Eastside Library, 1102 E. Montecito Street at 7:30 p.m. January 31, 1975. This is a real opportunity for women to share their common concerns and cooperate on realistic solutions to problems. Spanish translators will be available. If you need transportation or can offer a ride, call 966-9273.

*Miriam Hawthorne/bb*

MIRIAM HAWTHORNE, Commissioner

*Betty Bullock/sj*

BETTY BULLOCK, Chairperson

BB:MH:bb

## WOMEN'S CONCERNS WORKSHOP

sponsored by Santa Barbara County Commission on the Status of Women  
reported by Miriam Hawthorne

On October 5, 1974, 135 women and 4 men, representing 42 groups, met to share information about their organizations's makeup and activities. Over 400 invitations had been sent to individuals and organizations, giving an indication of the degree of the need for coordination among women's groups.

During the workshop, the following action priorities were reached:

1. The group agreed on the urgent need for a women's advocate, an ombudswoman, to serve as a coordinator of activities, be a liaison between groups and help women find answers to problems. It was felt that this women's coordinator should serve as Executive Director of the Status of Women Commission and be a full-time employee of the County.
2. Another concensus was that women need a newsletter telling of programs, resources, activities and other subjects of concern to women. Such a newsletter could be edited by the woman's coordinator as part of her duties.
3. Participants agreed that employment and education are high priority concerns for women. It was suggested that groups having affirmative action plans be urged to devote sufficient resources to insure prompt implementation.
4. The need for women's centers also became evident. Many women and children, threatened with physical and emotional abuse need a refuge for emergency shelter. Plans are progressing for several centers where women can go for information, counseling, and companionship.

The format for the workshop was as follows. Commissioners and group representatives first gave brief descriptions of their organizations' purposes and activities. Attendees formed small groups to identify current problems of women, opportunities for change, and possible solutions.

Problems cited included sex role stereotyping through schools and media, restricted employment opportunities, lack of child care facilities, inflexible work hours and lack of part time work with commensurate fringe benefits. Other problems considered were low status and lack of benefits provided to homemakers and the particular difficulties of minority and older women.

Opportunities and solutions proposed include a women's center to provide information, referral services, and a "place to be", and a bilingual communications network among groups and agencies dealing with women's problems. Also needed are implementation of affirmative action plans, high quality child care, improved welfare and social security benefits, including benefits to homemakers. Subsidized job training, part time work, and flexible employment patterns would help many women be self-sufficient while continuing to care for their children. There is a need for more effective physical and mental health care delivery. The media and educational institutions need to be monitored and challenged when they perpetuate sex role stereotyping. More women in government and appointive bodies will help make public institutions more sensitive to and responsive to women.

After lunch, participants formed special interest groups on the following topics:

#### RAPE

The rape crisis center volunteers, in cooperation with law enforcement officers, is helping meet the needs of rape victims, but more public

education and funding is needed.

#### MINORITY PROBLEMS

The most acute needs are for affirmative action enforcement, full employment and access to low cost housing.

#### EDUCATION

Current classes on family living, sex education, and combined home economics-industrial arts for all students need support and expansion.

#### MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE

There is almost no health care aimed at older women. Programs are needed to sensitize doctors to the needs of older women. Also needed are lists of doctors knowledgeable and sensitive in their treatment of women. Mobile health screening units are needed for breast examination and Pap smears. Women need non-sexist psychological counseling.

#### EMPLOYMENT

Women's needs are not being met. Part time jobs with pro-rated benefits, raised self-confidence in seeking work, pay for work customarily done by volunteers, access to jobs without needing personal contacts and higher pay for traditional women's jobs were urged by those discussing employment. They also urged the admission of women into trade unions and other non-traditional areas.

#### WOMEN'S CENTER

A center should provide coordination for services provided to women, guidance for re-entry into the work force, education on minority problems, family planning help and information exchange and referral.

#### NEWSLETTER

The editor should be paid from county funds and recipients should pay a subscription fee to cover postage and paper. Included should be a calendar of events, legislative news, employment and educational opportunities and articles.

## OMBUDSWOMAN

She should investigate complaints, offer a clearinghouse of information, mediate, and serve as an advocate and monitor of change.

## WOMEN'S COUNCIL

There were many requests for more opportunities to get together to collectively attack our problems. An Ad Hoc group was formed to discuss establishing a women's council. Women attending showed a willingness to work hard to help one another.



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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
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Improving the Status of Women in Santa Barbara County

Public Decision Making

How the masses of women, who are the Have Nots, attempted to gain some of the power of the elites, who are the Haves.

Miriam Hawthorne  
January 14, 1975

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENTAL  
STUDIES LIBRARY

MAR 26 1975

1. Perceptions of a small town political activist compared to the principles found in research material.
2. A brief history of the Status of Women Commission.
3. Rape workshop report.
4. Women's concerns workshop report.
5. Letter to leaders of women's groups urging effective organization.
6. Eight basic rules to accomplish change.
7. Publicity resulting from major efforts of the commission.

Resources.

1. Common Cause Newsletter by John Gardner.
2. Irony of Democracy by Thomas R. Dye and L. Harmon Ziegler.
3. The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli.
4. Rules for Radicals, A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals by Saul Alinsky

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

-Proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

